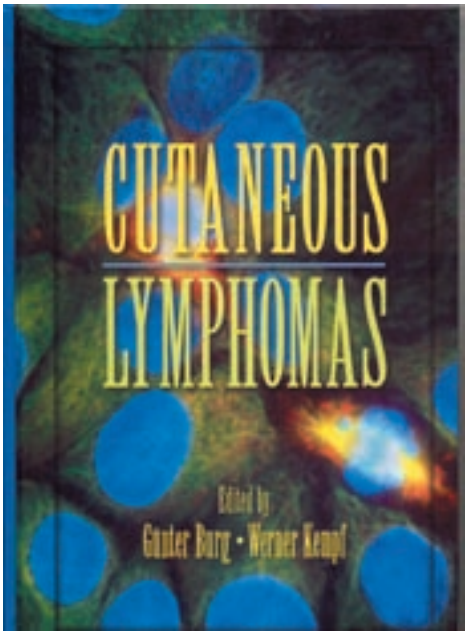
Burg G, Kempf W, editors. Cutaneous Lymphomas. Boca Raton, London: Taylor&Francis, 2005. Format: hard cover, one volume. Pages 556, chapters 49, ISBN 10:0-8247-2997-8.



This is the first edition of the book Cutaneous Lymphomas, edited by Günther Burg and Werner Kempf, renowned Swiss dermatologists from the University Hospital of Zürich. Associate Editors are Dimitri V. Kazakov (Pilsen, Czech Republic), Marshall E. Kadin (Massachusetts, USA) and Reinhard Dummer (Zürich, Switzerland). In the preface, the Editors stress that this book is the result of cooperation of many people with special expertise in the field of lymphoproliferative disorders of the skin. Thirteen authors were engaged in writing the book. The goal of the book is to provide description of cutaneous lymphomas using widely accepted terminology and the new WHO/EORTC classification, and presentation of the unique features of cutaneous lymphomas including their epidemiology, etiologic and pathogenetic factors, diagnostic procedures, therapy and prognosis. At the end of each chapter there is a very useful comment. The book is intended for dermatologists, oncologists, pathologists, hematologists and others in disciplines dealing with hematopoietic disorders.

The introduction section of the book consisting of four chapters brings historical data on the development of the idea of cutaneous lymphomas. Specific features of cutaneous lymphomas are presented. Cutaneous lymphomas differ from nodal lymphomas and from other extranodal lymphomas in many respects. There are many physiologic and anatomic factors which help explain various features of cutaneous lymphomas: just as in lymph nodes, the skin provides regions to which T cell or B cells, respectively, home preferentially, a variety of functionally different compartments and microenvironments. It is very important that in cutaneous lymphomas, in distinction from nodal lymphomas, the tiniest changes can be seen and monitored clinically or with sequential biopsies during all stages of disease progression. Thus, cutaneous lymphomas reflect the whole spectrum of pathogenetic events in carcinogenesis and may be a prototype of neoplasia for cancer research. In the part of the volume about structure and function of the lymphoid system are chapters on lymphoid system, structure and function of secondary lymphoid tissues, ontogeny of lymphoid cells, and growth patterns of lympho- and myeloproliferative infiltrates of the skin. The part of the book about diagnostic approach to cutaneous lymphomas consists of the chapters on stepwise approach to the diagnosis of lymproliferative skin infiltrates and related disorders, clinical staging of cutaneous lymphomas, laboratory testing, immunohistochemistry and phenotypic features, genotyping, cytogenetic studies in cutaneous lymphomas, functional profiling by microarray technology, classification of cutaneous lymphomas in historical perspectives, WHO/EORTC classification of cutaneous lymphomas, and prognostic categorization of lymphoproliferative disorders of the skin with clinically oriented approach. The part of the book on cutaneous T-cell and NK-cell lymphomas provides complete description of mycosis fungoides as the most common cutaneous lymphoma. All variants

Acta Dermatovenerol Croat
2007;15(2):119-120

and subtypes of mycosis fungoides are described. In a separate chapter, transformation of cutaneous lymphomas is presented. Transformation of low-grade T-cell lymphoma into high-grade lymphoma is more frequently observed in patients with classic mycosis fungoides, but can also be seen in patients with Sézary syndrome. Between 8% and 55% of T-cell cutaneous lymphoma undergo transformation. Separate chapters are dedicated to CD30+ T-cell lymphoproliferative disorders of the skin and subcutaneous panniculitis-like T-cell lymphoma. Primary cutaneous peripheral T-cell lymphomas, unspecified, are a very rare but highly aggressive group of cutaneous lymphomas. Their classification, definition, clinical features, molecular biology, clinical course, treatment and prognosis are described in a separate chapter. In the chapter on cutaneous manifestations of other mature T-cell neoplasms, the classification, clinical features, immunochemistry, molecular biology and treatment of angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma and T-zone lymphoma are presented. The part of the book on cutaneous B-cell lymphomas offers extraordinary presentation of primary cutaneous B-cell lymphoma: marginal zone B-cell lymphoma, follicle center lymphoma and diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. Among B-cell lymphomas with common secondary cutaneous involvement, lymphomatoid granulomatosis, Burkitt lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma and Waldenström macroglobulinemia are described. The section on immature hematopoietic malignancies describes blastic NK-cell lymhoma as a recently characterized entity in the group of CD56+ neoplasms with distinct clinical manifestation and phenotype. A separate chapter provides data on secondary involvement of the skin by systemic Hodgkin's lymphoma. Skin involvement occurs in 0.5%-7.5% of patients with nodal Hodgkin's lymphoma. In the chapter on cutaneous pseudolymphomas, standard data on this group of lymphoproliferative diseases are presented, along with a number of questions awaiting answers. In the chapter about parapsoriasis, the authors stress that the term parapsoriasis is confusing and requires explanation. It encompasses a number of different pathologic states clinically manifested by chronic recalcitrant erythematous scaling lesions. Today, two groups of parapsoriasis can be differentiated: the benign form (small patch type) and premalignant form (large patch form), with or without poikiloderma. In the premalignant form, life expectancy is normal in most cases but progress to mycosis fungoides may occur. In a separate chapter, cutaneous T-cell lymphoproliferative disorders of unknown significance are described: papuloerythroderma of Ofuji and clonal T-cell disorders (clonal dermatitis, lichen planus and psoriasis, pityriasis lichenoides, angiolymphoid hyperplasia with eosinophilia, and Kimura disease). In the section on skin involvement in leukemias (chapter 43), there is an excellent presentation of skin involvement in all types of leukemias with clinical and micromorphological pictures of high quality. One of the last chapters is dedicated to the etiology and pathogenesis of cutaneous lymphomas. The etiology and exact steps in the pathogenesis of cutaneous lymphomas are only partially understood. Most probably, the lymphomagenesis of cutaneous lymphoma represents a multifactiorial and multi-step process due to the impact of various etiologic factors over a long period of time. Among the many potential initiating factors to be considered are genetic, environmental, infectious and immune. Chapter 47 is dedicated to various forms of topical and systemic therapy as well as experimental therapies for cutaneous lymphomas. From the point of practical approach, it is very important to use stage adjusted treatment. The last chapter is dedicated to the concepts, misconceptions and controversies in cutaneous lymphomas. The authors inventively comment on particular controversies and open questions in this dynamic field of medical science.

This valuable book deserves to take prominent place in medical libraries as well as in laboratories and departments dealing with this entity, as it provides a highly relevant source of information for physicians from various medical disciplines engaged in this dynamic and complex field.

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